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Reply to Office Action of July 6, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. All pending claims have been rejected.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over King et al (US Patent No. 5,537,592). The rejection under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 11 were previously amended to include the recitation of the term "database format." Applicants deem the term "database format" to be more specific than just the term "format" and also different from other types of formats, such as a "file format." It is further submitted that those of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the difference between a "database format" and a "file format," and that each type of format has its own characteristics.

Support for the use of the term "database format" is found throughout the present specification and drawings and in particular at page 7, lines 15-20 and at page 17, lines 8-11.

King et al teaches a data structure used to temporarily store information about files. This data structure should not be confused with a database format as claimed.

King et al teaches addressing differences in physical file formats across different operating systems. (See column 6, line 66 though column 7, line 19). These are transformations of coarse-grained file characteristics (such as the examples of line length and line termination characters), as compared to the present invention that addresses the reorganization of fine-grained data components (individual elements of data, such as a number or a string within a data record).

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The present invention deals with records of a database, not files of a directory structure. While a database may be composed of a number of files that contain data, the present invention does not modify files or transfer files across different directory structures. Rather, the present invention reorganizes record structures in such a way as to retain the meaning and content of the data, but addresses data access concerns or other issues arising from the original data organization.

"Database format," as claimed, is concerned with the structure of the database. In an embodiment of the invention, this is a relational database. Database records are organized into records, each record containing some number of discrete components (commonly called fields or attributes). It is the organization of these fields within the record structures that are modified according to the present invention.

It is deemed clear that the use of the term "database format" incorporates the preceding argument points, and that this term is different than a "file format" as taught in King et al. Further, it would not have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to look to the teachings of King et al, which are concerned with differences in file formats, for help with the claimed database migration method, which incorporates different database formats.

Thus, it is deemed that claims 1 and 11, in their present form, are patentable over King et al and allowable under 35 USC 103(a). The remaining claims are deemed to be patentable as depending either directly or indirectly from a patentable base claim.

Since all pending rejections have been addressed, it is deemed that all claims are allowable and the case is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the

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prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants'
attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency
associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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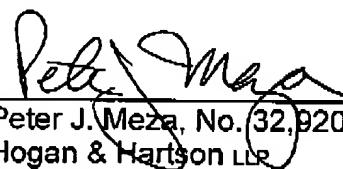
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